IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 9 in accordance with the following:

1. (original) A method for carrying out a handover procedure in a radio communications system having a first transmitting/receiving unit, a second transmitting/receiving unit and further transmitting/receiving units, comprising:

switching a radio link connecting a mobile station and the first transmitting/receiving unit, to the second transmitting/receiving unit,

sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transmitting/receiving unit in order to set up a connection to the second transmitting/receiving unit, which handover signaling message contains a code word identifying a handover procedure, the code word having a value corresponding to a handover code which is reserved for handover procedures in the radio communications system, the handover signaling message being sent via a physical channel, which also carries signaling messages for setting up a radio link to the radio communications system,

checking the code word at one of the further transmitting/receiving units, when a signaling message is received on the physical channel with a code word, the code word being checked to determine whether the value thereof corresponds to the handover code and decide whether the signaling message should or should not be regarded as a handover signaling message, and

identifying the signaling message received at the one of the further transmitting/receiving stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code word.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the handover code is stored in each of the transmitting/receiving units,

the value of the code word received with a signaling message is compared with the handover code stored in each of the further transmitting/receiving units,

if the value of the code word matches the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the handover code comprises a number of values,

the value of a code word received with a signaling message is compared to the values of the handover code, and

if the value of the code word matches one of the values of the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein

the handover code comprises a number of values,

the value of a code word received with a signaling message is compared to the values of the handover code, and

if the value of the code word matches one of the values of the handover code, the signaling message is identified as a handover signaling message.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein

the mobile station receives from the radio communications system a command to initiate the handover procedure, which command contains information about the second transmitting/receiving unit and identifies the handover procedure,

the radio communications system transmits information about the handover procedure to the second transmitting/receiving unit, and

further transmitting/receiving units which receive the handover signaling message from the mobile station check whether the code word contained therein has a value matching the handover code and, if the value matches the handover code, the further transmitting/receiving units reject the handover signaling message.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein

the mobile station receives from the radio communications system a command to initiate the handover procedure, which command contains information about the second transmitting/receiving unit and identifies the handover procedure,

the radio communications system transmits information about the handover procedure to the second transmitting/receiving unit, and

further transmitting/receiving units which receive the handover signaling message from the mobile station check whether the code word contained therein has a value matching the

handover code and, if the value matches the handover code, the further transmitting/receiving units reject the handover signaling message.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the transmitting/receiving units is a base station.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the transmitting/receiving units is a base station.

9. (currently amended) A handover method for a radio communications system having ~~a~~ first, second and further transceiver units, comprising:

~~switching a radio link connecting a mobile station, from the first transceiver unit to the second transceiver unit,~~

signaling a mobile station and the second transceiver unit from a controller to indicate that a handover is to occur;

-sending a handover signaling message from the mobile station to the second transceiver unit in order to set up a connection to the second transceiver unit~~, which handover signaling message contains a code word identifying a handover procedure, the code word corresponding to a handover code which is reserved for handover procedures in the radio communications system~~, the handover signaling message being sent via a channel, which also carries signaling messages for ~~establishing~~ requesting a radio link, the handover signaling message containing a codeword differentiating the handover signaling message from signaling messages for requesting a radio link;

checking the code word at one of the further transceiver units~~, when a signaling message is received on the channel with a code word, the code word being checked~~ to determine whether ~~there is correspondence with the handover code, and~~ a handover signaling message or a signaling message for requesting a radio link has been received;

identifying the signaling message ~~received~~ at the one of the further transceiver stations as a handover signaling message on the basis of the code word; and

proceeding with the handover at the second transceiver unit based on the code word and signaling from the controller.